

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCA-01 OMB-01 AID-05 /091 W
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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9914
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 1534

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: AS, ID, PT, PFOR, SHUM

SUBJ: TIMOR - JAMES DUNN VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: CANBERRA 1481

1. JAMES DUNN IS LEAVING FOR THE UNITED STATES ON MARCH 20.
HE PLANS TO GO ON TO THE UK AND THEN TO PORTUGAL FOR FURTHER
DISCUSSIONS WITH TIMORESE REFUGEES. WHILE IN THE US, DUNN
WILL MEET WITH CONGRESSMAN DONALD FRASER AND OTHER MEMBERS
OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (SEE REFTEL).

2. DUNN IS A VERY CALM, RELAXED MAN WHO TAKES A CONTROLLED
APPROACH TO WHAT HE BELIEVES TO BE INDONESIA'S POLICY OF
GENOCIDE IN TOMOR. (DUNN IS CONVINCED THAT THE INDONESIANS
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HAVE MURDERED OVER 100,000 TIMORESE, OR ONE-SIXTH OF THE
POPULATION). HE TOLD THE POL COUNSELLOR THAT HIS OBJECTIVES
IN THE US WERE QTE VERY LIMITED. END QTE. HE WANTS THE US
TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE INDONESIANS TO QTE STOP THE KILLING IN
TIMOR; PERMIT OUTSIDE (UN) OBSERVERS INTO TIMOR; ALLOW
THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS TO ESTABLISH AN AID PROGRAM
THERE. END QTE EVENTUALLY, WHILE ACCEPTING THE FACT THAT

TIMOR WOULD REMAIN INCORPORATED IN INDONESIA, DUNN HOPED THAT THE TIMORESE COULD ASPIRE TO A QTE NEPAL TYPE END QTE FUTURE.

3. DUNN NOTED THAT THE US MUST FIND IT PECULIAR THAT OVER HALF OF THE MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT HAD WRITTEN AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO TAKE ACTION ON A PROBLEM THAT THE GOA WAS UNABLE TO TACKLE ITSELF. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO THE FACT THAT NEITHER THE PRIME MINISTER NOR THE OPPOSITION LEADER WERE IN POSITION TO OPPOSE INDONESIA'S ACTIONS BECAUSE OF THE PRIOR POSITIONS THEY HAD TAKEN: WHITLAM AT TOWNSVILLE IN MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO IN APRIL 1975; FRASER, BOTH WHILE IN OPPOSITION WHEN HE DENOUNCED FRETILIN AS A COMMUNIST-DOMINATED MOVEMENT, AND DURING HIS VISIT TO INDONESIA AS PRIME MINISTER IN OCT. 1976. IN DEFENSE OF WHITLAM, DUNN SAID THAT GOUGH WOULD NEVER HAVE AGREED TO INDONESIA'S OUTRIGHT MILITARY TAKEOVER OF TIMOR. HOWEVER, WHITLAM REMAINED VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT TIMOR AND LEFT-WING ALP CRITICISM OF HIS ACTIONS.

4. IN WASHINGTON DUNN PLANS TO STRESS THE FACT THAT HALF OF THE AUSTRALIAN SIGNATORIES TO THE PETITION TO THE PRESIDENT WERE CONSERVATIVES QTE SICKENED BY INDONESIAN EXCESSES END QTE IN TIMOR. IN OUR VIEW, DUNN WILL PRESENT A VERY CONVINCING, WELL-DOCUMENTED CASE TO CONGRESSMAN FRASER AND HIS COMMITTEE. BASED ON HIS SUCCESS IN HIS OWN PARLIAMENT WITH MEMBERS OF ALL THREE PARTIES, WE BELIEVE THAT DUNN'S PRESENTATION IN WASHINGTON COULD HAVE SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT.

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5. COPIES OF DUNN'S QTE REPORT ON TALKS WITH TIMORESE REFUGEES IN PORTUGAL END QTE POUCHED DEPARTMENT AND JAKARTA. HARGROVE

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